(c) In addition to the steps taken by State Governments, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by way of the following schemes to improve the quality and the quantity of milk in the country:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

(ii) Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme

(iii) Fodder Development Scheme

(iv) Intensive Dairy Development Programme

(v) Assistance to Cooperatives

(vi) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production

(d) There has been lincrease in prices of milk and milk products during the year 2005-06 which continued in the year 2006-07 resulting in lower demand of milk and milk products among poor and middle class people.

(e) The main reason for increase in price of milk during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 was due to increase in prices of milk powder in the international market resulting in increase in domestic prices of milk and milk product. In order to prevent further increase in prices of milk and milk products, Government of India has banned export of milk powder with effect from S.2.2007, which shall remain in force til! 30.9.2007.

Co-operation of Farmers' Organisation, Gram Sabhas and private sector on establishment of SAZs

3997. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that eminent agriculture scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has advised the setting up of a Special Agricultural Zones (SAZs) in the country on the lines of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to achieve food security and food sovereignty through sustainable agriculture practices;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on setting up of Special Agricultural Zones in the country;

(c) whether Government would take the help of farmers' organizations, Gram Sabhas and the private sector on establishment of such zones to herald on second green revolution in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No proposal for setting up of Special Agriculture Zones on the lines of Special Economic Zones has been received from Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the Ministry of Agriculture;

Suicides in **Vidarbha**

3998. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers' suicides in Vidarbha has crossed 100 in first 40 days of 2007;

(b) what are the figures for 2007 in different parts of the country; and

(c) how much grant has been given to Maharashtra Government as a part of the package to Vidarbha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Productivity of pulses and minor cereals

3999. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to increase the productivity of pulses and minor cereals like barley, corn, bajra, etc. and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and by when we can reach the international standards for productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing